

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

CIEP-02 SPC-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

SS-20 NSC-10 SCEM-02 INT-08 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 DRC-01 /194 W

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R 131015Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6148

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS POUCH

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT POUCH

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS POUCH

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS ELAB, SGEN, EEC

SUB: DECEMBER 11 EC COUNCIL (SOCIAL AFFAIRS)

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY, THE EC CONCL OF MINISTERS MET ON DECEMBER 11 AND AGREED ON THE BASIC ASPECTS OF SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM DESIGNED TO IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY. DURING THE MEETING THE MINISTERS EXPRESSED THEIR SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THE ANTICIPATED EFFECTS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS ON EMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE 1972 PARIS SUMMIT INVITED THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY TO DRAW UP BY JANUARY 1, 1974 AN ACTION PROGRAM IN THE SOCIAL FIELD. THE EC COMMISSION PREPARED PROPOSALS FOR SUCH A PROGRAM WHICH WERE CONSIDERED BY THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (SOCIAL AFFAIRS, LABOR OR EMPLOYMENT) AT ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 11. THE COUNCIL REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE MAIN ASPECTS OF A RESOLUTION WHICH IS TO BE FINALIZED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND SUBMITTED TO THE DECEMBER 17-18 COUNCIL MEETING (FOREIGN MINISTERS) FOR FINAL APPROVAL.

3. THE BASIC OBJECTIVES OF THE SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: TO PROVIDE BETTER COORDINATION OF MEMBER STATE EMPLOYMENT POLICIES; TO IMPLEMENT A COMMON POLICY ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING; TO TAKE MEASURES TO ACHIEVE EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN; TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND REHABILITATION OF MIGRANT AND HANDICAPPED WORKERS; TO COORDINATE SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES OF MEMBER STATES; TO DEVELOP SAFETY REGULATIONS; TO PROMOTE LABOR AND MANAGEMENT PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DECISIONS; TO ESTABLISH A STANDARD 40 HOUR WEEK BY 1975 AND FOUR WEEKS PAID ANNUAL LEAVE BY 1976, TO SET UP A EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS; AND TO HARMONIZE LAWS REGARDING MASS DISMISSALS OF WORKERS. THE COUNCIL HAS SET A THREE-YEAR TIME FRAME FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM.

4. THE ENERGY CRISIS AND ITS EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH BY THE MINISTERS. DEBATE CENTERED ON THE QUESTION OF NON-COMMUNITY MIGRANT

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WORKERS. IT WAS GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION IN THIS REGARD BECAUSE OF ANTICIPATED INCREASES IN UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE COMMUNITY ITSELF. THE EC COMMISSION ESTIMATES THAT THE NINE MEMBER STATES WILL HAVE MORE THAN FOUR MILLION UNEMPLOYED WORKERS IN EARLY 1974 BECAUSE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. THIS WILL BE MORE THAN DOUBLE THE NORMAL TWO MILLION RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT. IT IS

EXPECTED THEREFORE THAT MIGRANT WORKERS FROM
NON COMMUNITY NATIONS, CHIEFLY SPAIN, PORTUGAL,
YUGOSLAVIA, TURKEY AND NORTH AFRICA, WHO ARE NOT PROTECTED
UNDER COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT LAWS, WILL BE THE
FIRST TO LOSE THEIR JOBS.BARBIS

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